

## **JEREMY TAKALA, YAKAMA TRIBAL COUNCIL FISH & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Jeremy Takala, known as Pax'anashat in the Yakama Nation, hails from the Kahmiltpah Band (Rock Creek) located on the Columbia River, while also a proud descendant of Hopi. He was nominated in 2020 to serve as a Tribal Councilmember for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Currently, he serves as the Chair of the Fish and Wildlife, Law and Order, and Legislative Committees, as well as a Yakama Nation CRITFC Commissioner.

Prior to his time in office, Jeremy worked for 12 years for the Yakima / Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) as a fisheries technician. His hands on training and traditional Washut upbringing contributed to his knowledge and skills as a tribal leader. He is compassionate about upholding up his Tribe's Treaty rights with the federal government and protecting resources for those yet unborn.

Jeremy was raised in Goldendale, WA and is a proud member of the Rock Creek Longhouse. Learning to drum and provide for the longhouse at an early age is a tribute to his elders who have passed on their traditional educations. He continues to carry on traditional cultural values with his wife Kim, their two sons Tyler and Clint, daughter Nena, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and extended community participants. When time allows between his sons' baseball and basketball schedules, he finds time to display his Round Bustle style of dance on the Pow-Wow circuit, with his boys right behind him mimicking his every move. He has led students to national conferences as part of the Big River Council and has been an instrumental presence in local schools and parent committees as a voice for Native representation.

Jeremy's passion has always been in the mountains gathering traditional foods and medicines, hunting, fishing, and practicing the ways of time immemorial. He strives to be a steward for future generations, and to help them to understand and defend natural foods, streams, and animals – always striving to carry out the visions of past leadership while embarking on new ways to preserve natural laws in the contemporary world. Jeremy attributes his large family and Longhouse gatherings as a reason for his achievements and for preparing him to be a team player. When called upon by his elders, he graciously accepted their words of encouragement and stepped into his governance role.

